



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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COLUMBIA SALMON STUDY PLANNED FOR IDAHO STREAMS

Idaho's fabulous Salmon River, the "river of no return," haunt of "mountain men" and hardy fishermen, "top of the stream" for part of the Columbia River salmon and steelhead trout, and upper limit of the vast \$23,000,000 Columbia River salmon program, is due for special attention this year, according Fred A. Seaton, Secretary of the Interior.

Initial funds up to \$200,000 for the improvement of the Salmon River and possibly the Clearwater River, for salmon and steelhead production, are available this year for expenditure on approved projects.

Mr. Seaton said that a preliminary survey of needed improvements on the Salmon will begin soon in cooperation with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game under the Columbia River Fisheries Development program. This is a cooperative program with the States of Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

At the present time there are no dams on the Salmon River which interfere with the runs but one dam is under construction on the Snake River below the mouth of the Salmon. This is at Ice Harbor, not far from where the Snake River joins the Columbia. There are possibilities, however, of major dams at the Lower Monumental, Little Goose, and Lower Granite sites, all below the mouth of the Salmon.

On the Columbia River itself below the mouth of the Snake River is the recently constructed McNary Dam, the proposed John Day Dam, The Dalles Dam now under construction and the Bonneville Dam which has been in existence since 1938. On the Columbia, also, are Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams, 600 miles from the sea, too high for fish ladders or elevators. Chief Joseph marks the upper limit of the salmon run on the main river.

In 1949, when it was evident that dams constructed or proposed would seriously damage the salmon and sea-run trout fisheries, Congress authorized the current salmon program which, when completed, will include 30 hatcheries (seven of which

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are in existence and being remodelled), more than 30 fishways and numerous stream clearance projects. These developments are designed to hold salmon and steelhead production at the highest possible level, although maintenance of the current production of 32,000,000 pounds annually will also depend on continued availability of upriver spawning areas.

Of the 30 hatcheries, eight will be operated by the Fish and Wildlife Service, 13 by Oregon, and nine by the State of Washington. The total cost of the entire program will be about \$23,000,000 of which \$11,451,000 had been made available by the Congress before July 1, 1956. Of this amount, Washington has been apportioned \$4,291,000; Oregon, \$3,404,000, and the Fish and Wildlife Service, \$3,756,000. For the 1957 fiscal year, \$1,400,000 is available for construction and \$1,250,000 for operation and maintenance.

Under the program the natural spawning beds, like those of the Salmon River and elsewhere, will be utilized to the fullest extent. Streams, which because of numerous natural obstructions have not supported salmon runs for years have been cleared and new runs established. Hatcheries supply young fish to supplement the natural spawning results and for the reestablishment of runs. Fish ladders have been installed over dams and waterfalls. Fish screens have been placed at irrigation headgates to prevent loss of downstream migrants. Similar activities now will be undertaken in Idaho streams accessible to salmon and steelhead trout.

Special problems relative to fish ladders and screens are being studied by biologists who are improving fishway design and developing electrical guidance apparatus which, when perfected, will increase the efficiency of the fishways and drastically cut the losses in downstream migrants. These studies are among regular and continuing Service programs in cooperation with the Corps of Engineers and the fisheries agencies of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.

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